



## Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology December 2021 Executive Director's Report

### Continuing Broadband Initiatives

- Community Wireless: \$10M to expand access points via public spaces and anchors, administered by Commission working closely with CEN as a grant program targeting underserved areas (details in [Gov. Lamont's ARPA plan](#)).
- Broadband Coordination and Mapping: DEEP hiring a broadband and telecommunications lead, OPM a state mapping coordinator (see [PA 21-159](#)).
- Emergency Broadband Benefit: Enrollments continue for subsidized broadband, with ZIP-level totals available at <https://bit.ly/CT-EBB-MAP>.

### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Total of \$42.5B, with initial planning investment to all states (including Connecticut) of \$100M for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption; support for state broadband offices; and development of five-year action plan. Remainder disbursed by formula based on unserved and high-cost locations, including anchor institutions.
- Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program: Total of \$1B, awarded as competitive grants to state and other entities to expand middle mile fiber to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.
- Digital Equity Act: Total of \$2.75B across three programs, including \$2.5B in formula funding to states and \$1.25B in competitive funding to states and other organizations to equip residents with the skills and technology to appreciate the economic, civic, wellness, and other benefits of digital access.
- Affordable Connectivity Program: Total of \$14.2B, continues the Emergency Broadband Benefit, with up to \$30 monthly for Internet to eligible households.
- Cybersecurity: Total of \$1B over four years, with states developing plans that include distribution of 80 percent of funds to local governments.

### Open Education Resources

- Expansion of free and open materials available via [www.GoOpenCT.org](http://www.GoOpenCT.org).
- Partnership with CSDE to support African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino course.
- Funding in place to provide statewide support and training to school teachers, professors, and other educators.
- Intensified outreach beginning in winter and spring of 2022.